

Our Reference: 195335 : Stuart Mackenzie

21 May 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

“Council Offers Rates Concessions for Impacted Business”

At a Special Meeting of Quilpie Shire Council held on Friday 15 May 2020, Council resolved to make rates concessions available to those businesses impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Council’s Mayor, Stuart Mackenzie, says it is essential to provide support to the number of small business owners across the shire who are experiencing significant financial stress as a result of the virus.

“After making contact with business houses to ascertain the extent of the impact and how they felt we could assist, Council believed that some sort of financial support was critical”, Cr Mackenzie said.

“A number of business operators made various requests for rates concessions and other support.

To ensure a simple process and to maintain equity across the board, Council resolved to offer a full rates concession to those who made application for the current rates period”, he said.

Affected business owners who have paid their rates and charges for the period 01 January to 30 June 2020 will receive a full refund on all monies paid, while those who have been unable to pay will have their rates credited for the full amount that would otherwise have been due.

Cr Mackenzie said Council will be looking at the situation again prior to the next six (6) month levy being issued in August.

Council also received and approved one application for ‘exceptional hardship’ assistance for those businesses or enterprises that can clearly demonstrate that their business or enterprise would be unlikely to survive if the restrictions continue.